FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 SEPTEMBER 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces launched another attack northwest of Mehran the night of 18 September, capturing the main part of a height inside Iraqi territory, IRNA announced. An Iranian commander said Iran now controls all the border heights in the area, putting Iraq in an "extremely vulnerable" position, the agency reported.

Iraqi planes raided Khark Island's western loading platform 18 September in order to prevent Iranian repair work, according to an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA.

Kuwait

Note to Iran — The Iranian charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Ministry, which handed him a note concerning the 16 September attack on a Kuwaiti oil tanker off Ra's al-Khafji, an official source revealed in a statement reported by KUNA. The Kuwaitis asked the Iranian diplomat for "clarifications" regarding the incident, the source added. The Cabinet had discussed the attack during an emergency session 17 September, the agency noted.

Moscow Talks — The attack on the Kuwaiti oil tanker was discussed during the Foreign Ministry undersecretary's talks with Soviet officials, who expressed "indignation" over the incident, according to a diplomatic source cited by KUNA. The talks in Moscow were "extremely successful" and the Kuwaiti side was "completely pleased" with the USSR's understanding for Kuwait's concern to remove all conditions that could invite foreign intervention in Gulf affairs, the agency reported.

Mitterrand Visit — KUNA announced French President Francois Mitterrand's arrival in Kuwait 19 September on a brief visit during which he will hold talks with the amir.

Lebanon

Anonymous persons claimed responsibility for the assassination of the French military attache on behalf of the "Front for Justice and Revenge" and the "Revolutionary Brigades," according to reports by AFP and Voice of Lebanon radio. An anonymous caller also told AFP that the "Anti-Imperialist International Brigades" will target all French diplomats unless France releases Georges Ibrahim 'Abdallah and his comrades. Meanwhile, another of 'Abdallah's brothers met the press in Tripoli, AFP disclosed, noting that the man is being sought by French police in connection with the 17 September bomb attack on a Paris clothing store.

As for the situation in southern Lebanon, the Islamic Resistance Front announced that its fighters killed 15 "agents" in an attack on Army of Southern Lebanon (ASL) positions in hills south of Jazzin, according to Beirut radio. The ASL conducted searches for the attackers in conjunction with Israeli helicopters, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon disclosed. Israel has decided to supply the ASL with additional weapons in light of the "massive" attacks on the latter's positions in recent days, the Tel Aviv paper *Ha'aretz reported*.

Israel, Egypt, and the "Preparatory Committee"

Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres seeks the establishment of a tripartite "preparatory committee" comprising Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, with observer status offered to the five UN Security Council permanent members, the Tel Aviv paper *Yedi'ot Aharonot* reported. The formation of the committee will depend on the successful outcome of Israeli-Jordanian "proximity" talks in London, conducted through a mediator and under British auspices. Such talks will only be possible after secret contacts during the next 2 months, the paper said, citing remarks made by Peres during his visit to Canada.

For Egypt's part, Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid told Radio Monte Carlo that the preparatory committee will not be confined to Egypt, Jordan, and Israel, and will include "others," noting that he will discuss the composition and role of such a committee during talks with "all the parties" at the UNGA session in New York. He said Egypt is currently coordinating with both Jordan and the PLO in order to promote the peace process. A commentary in Egypt's *Al-Ahram* stressed that the chances of holding an international conference are nil unless Jordan and the PLO resolve their differences, MENA noted. The PLO's representative in Cairo has informed 'Abd al-Majid that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement has not been annulled, according to another *Al-Ahram* article cited by MENA.

Pakistan

Responding to a Soviet protest over the murder of a Soviet diplomat in Islamabad 16 September, a Foreign Office spokesman cited by Karachi radio said Pakistan shares the USSR's grief and anger over the killing, but it considers TASS's use of the incident for "propaganda" purposes against Pakistan to be "wholly unfair and unjust."

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 182 *19 September 1986*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Iranian-Backed Bands 'Crushed' in Herat ..... C 1
Armed Forces 'Crush' Counterrevolutionaries in Morghab ..... C 1
Mujahidin Kill Over 100 Joint Forces, Down MiG 12 Sep *[SPA]* ..... C 1
Mujahidin Repel Soviet-Afghan Herat Attack *[SPA]* ..... C 1

BANGLADESH

AFP: Court Lawyers Call for Ershad Resignation ..... D 1
Ershad Says Presidential Election To Be 'Free, Fair' ..... D 1
Classes Suspended After Rajshahi University Clash *[AFP]* ..... D 1
University Closed Indefinitely ..... D 1
Special 5-Year Plan To Hasten Chittagong Development ..... D 1

INDIA

Gandhi: Pakistan-PRC Agreement 'Threat to Peace' ..... E 1
Gandhi on Gurkha Front's Demand for Citizenship ..... E 1
Shankar Reiterates Claim Over PRC Border Territory ..... E 1
Punjab Police Set Up Base 'To Apprehend' Terrorists ..... E 1

PAKISTAN

Lahore Situation 'Improved;' No Curfew in Some Areas ..... F 1
Atomic Energy Chief Comments on Agreement With PRC ..... F 1
AFP: 'Arafat Offer To Aid in Hijack Probe Turned Down ..... F 1

IRAN

Tehran Reports 17 Sep Cabinet Meeting Proceedings ..... I 1
IRNA: UK, USSR View Iraq's Use of Chemical Weapons ..... I 1
Ambassador to Moscow Presents Credentials ..... I 1
Majlis Speaker Addresses Garrison on War ..... I 1
Tehran Reports Further Departures for Battlefronts ..... I 1
Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue ..... I 2
'Main Slope' of Height 203 Captured ..... I 2
Attack Completes Karbala-1 Operation ..... I 2
Capturing of Further Heights Detailed ..... I 2
Army Official on Height 270 Liberation ..... I 2
Communique No 2598 ..... I 3
Khomeyni Portraits Hung After Attacks in S. Lebanon ..... I 3

Iranian-Backed Bands 'Crushed' in Herat
LD190936 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 18 Sep 86

[Text] Kabul, September 17, BAKHTAR — A BAKHTAR correspondent reports from Herat:

The Armed Forces of the DRA with the cooperation of the inhabitants of Herat crushed the counter-revolutionary bands who were supported by the reactionary regime of Iran and the military regime of Pakistan, and their imperialist patrons, in the suburbs of Herat. Their supply bases, set up in the regions of Shar Shari and Kakari [names as received] in the vicinity of the border between Iran and Afghanistan have been eliminated, and hundreds of assorted weapons have been captured from them.

The supply bases of the counter-revolutionaries were set up in mountainous regions in such a method that they could resist against artillery strikes. In order to protect the bases, assorted Chinese and American weapons were emplaced there.

Ghulam Mohayuddin, one of the inhabitants of Herat said that the counter-revolutionaries ruthlessly killed tens of the compatriots in Kakari and Shar Shari. They demolished tens of mosques, schools and dwellings, and the people of Herat have deep hatred towards them.

Colonel Latef, who had participated in the combat operations said at the outset, the counter-revolutionaries wanted to create obstacles against the Armed Forces, but they were encircled and annihilation. [sentence as received]

He added that when the Iranian regime felt that the counter-revolutionary bands were annihilated, they mobilised the Afghan emigres in Turbate Jam [name as received] and Mashhad and dispatched them to the borders of the DRA with the assistance of the Revolution Guards of Iran. But they also faced the fate of other counter-revolutionary bands.

Around eighty depots of weapons, ammunitions, foodstuffs, clothes, and drugs were seized by the Armed Forces. Hundreds of assorted Chinese and American weapons were destroyed. A large number of the counter-revolutionaries were killed and over fifty of them were captured.

With the carrying out of the combat operations, the people of the suburbs of Herat embarked upon setting up of revolution defense groups and they would not let that the counter-revolutionaries to disturb their peaceable life again.

Armed Forces 'Crush' Counterrevolutionaries in Morghab
LD181153 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 17 Sep 86

[Text] The country's courageous Armed Forces, as a result of attack on the satanic nests of the counterrevolutionaries, have crushed a number of these criminals in the environs of Morghab District, Badghis Province.

A BIA correspondent reported that during this successful operation in the environs of Morghab District the Armed Forces seized three counterrevolutionaries together with Mohammad Eslam, the ringleader of a criminal band of Harakat-e Enqlab-e Eslami, as well as various weapons and ammunition.

Mujahidin Kill Over 100 Joint Forces, Down MiG 12 Sep
LD190454 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Sep 86

[Text] Islamabad, 18 Sep (SPA) — The Afghan mujahidin have managed to kill more than 100 soldiers of the joint Soviet-Afghan force, to down a Soviet MiG warplane, and to destroy 19 military tanks and vehicles during a ferocious battle waged by the Afghan mujahidin against the Soviet-Afghan forces, when the latter tried to launch an attack on the Do Ab region in the city of Herat, situated in northwest Afghanistan on 12 September.

The Afghan agency stated today that this attack was the biggest carried out thus far this year by the joint Afghan-Soviet forces in this region. More than 2,000 communist forces participated in it and were supported by dozens of warplanes as well as artillery.

More than 300 Afghan soldiers have fled from the communist forces and joined the ranks of the Afghan mujahidin. The battle is continuing in the Herat region, which has thus far witnessed the downing by the mujahidin of 14 Soviet warplanes during separate battles since last July.

Mujahidin Repel Soviet-Afghan Herat Attack
LD181205 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1533 GMT 17 Sep 86

[Text] Islamabad, 17 Sep (SPA) — Afghan mujahidin managed to repel last week's air and land attack launched by Soviet invading troops and hireling Afghan forces to capture the town of Herat. The Afghan news agency, organ of the mujahidin, said that the communist forces retreated after an 8-hour battle in which it suffered 50 wounded troops. In addition, 50 Afghan troops defected to mujahidin ranks, and 13 tanks and armored vehicles were destroyed.

The agency also reported that last week the mujahidin had captured 18 Soviet troops in Badghis Province, northwestern Afghanistan.

The agency pointed out that also last week the invading forces had killed 42 Afghan citizens, old people, women, and children, in the course of a campaign of house searches in the village of Naqiabad in northwestern Afghanistan.

AFP: Court Lawyers Call for Ershad Resignation

BK181700 Hong Kong AFP in English 1500 GMT 18 Sep 86

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 18 (AFP) — Lawyers at the Bangladesh Supreme Court boycotted the court Thursday, demanding the resignation of military ruler Hussain Mohammad Ershad and the restoration of the constitution, a lawyers' spokesman said.

The lawyers staged a protest march and rally in the capital, while lawyers across the country attached to the Dhaka Supreme Court also boycotted the courts, Shamsul Huq Chowdhury, president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, told reproters.

The lawyers also decided to convene a conference of political and social workers, students, and different professional groups on October 1 and 2 to mobilise public opinion and strengthen agitation against the military regime of President Ershad.

The lawyers have been strongly critical of Mr Ershad, who suspended the constitution after he came to power in a bloodless coup in March 1982.

Bangladesh's major opposition groups have said they will boycott a presidential election scheduled for October 15, on the grounds that free and fair polls cannot be held under martial law.

Mr Ershad has filed nomination papers to stand as a candidate for the ruling Jatiya Party, of which he is chairman.

Ershad Says Presidential Election To Be 'Free, Fair'

BK181622 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Sep 86

[Excerpt] President Ershad has declared that the coming presidential election will be free, fair, and impartial. He was addressing a grand national rally of Jatiya Yuva Sanghati [National Youth Federation] in Dhaka today. The president said the election will be held on schedule and no one will be able to resist since the 10 crore people of the country want it. The selection has been given by him to honor the wishes of the people and complete the process of transition to democracy. He regretted that some political elements have been talking of resisting the election. They are not the friends of people. If they would have cared for the wish of the people, they should have taken part in the elections. The president called upon the people to exercise their right of franchise judiciously so that the development activities initiated by his government can be carried forward to make the country self-reliant in all sectors of national life. He also urged the youth of the country to take part in various development activities to help ameliorate few sufferings of the common people. The rally was attended among others by Cabinet ministers and members of Parliament.

Classes Suspended After Rajshahi University Clash

BK190721 Hong Kong AFP in English 0711 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 19 (AFP) — One villager was killed and 180 other people hurt as university students and villagers clashed in the town of Rajshahi, according to reports here Friday. Western Rajshahi university was closed after Thursday's clash, which was apparently sparked by the alleged beating of a student by transport workers near the campus bus stop, the daily *Sangbad* said.

Parts of a wall surrounding the campus were broken and the homes of several teachers and officials ransacked by villagers, the report said. Police used tear gas to control the violence, then joined paramilitary forces to occupy the campus, the newspaper added.

Meanwhile, four people were injured at Dhaka university where rival groups of students had clashed repeatedly since Wednesday night with using guns and knives, the *Sangbad* said.

The *New Nation* reported that the incidents originated with a "verbal duel" between supporters of the Bangladesh National Party and the National Socialist Party. University classes have remained suspended since early this month due to an indefinite strike by teachers seeking between pay and more autonomy for Bangladesh's six universities.

University Closed Indefinitely

BK190712 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 19 Sept 86

[Text] Rajshahi university has been closed sine die. Our Rajshahi representative quoting university sources says all the on-going examinations have also been postponed.

Special 5-Year Plan To Hasten Chittagong Development

BK190140 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Text] The government has sanctioned 460 million taka for the 3d year of the 2,630 million-taka special 5-year plan for the socio-economic development of three hill region districts of the Chittagong division. In addition to normal development activities, the government has taken up a special 5-year plan to hasten the overall development of the region within the shortest possible time. Nine hundred and sixty million takas have already been spent during the last 2 years under the plan. The meeting of the Chittagong Hill tracts development board was held yesterday to review the progress of the special 5-year plan. The chairman of the board, Major General M.S. Samad, presided over. [as heard]

Gandhi: Pakistan-PRC Agreement 'Threat to Peace'

BK190259 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said the recent nuclear agreement between Pakistan and China poses a new threat to peace in the Indian subcontinent. Addressing a news conference in Calcutta yesterday, Mr Gandhi expressed concern over the agreement and said it is a new move by Pakistan to stockpile nuclear weaponry. India has been repeatedly saying that Pakistan's attempt to strengthen its nuclear power will endanger peace in the region.

About the problem of infiltration through borders, Mr Gandhi made it clear that the government will not allow this and strong action will be taken to stop it. We have started the process of legislation [in Parliament to provide for border security steps] and we will continue with it. [passage omitted]

Gandhi on Gurkha Front's Demand for Citizenship

BK181630 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 18 Sep 86

[Excerpts] The prime minister has cleared West Bengal's development projects to the tune of 684 crore rupees. The decision was taken during a meeting of the prime minister and some of his Cabinet colleagues with the state chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, and his Cabinet colleagues in Calcutta today. Addressing a news conference soon after the meeting, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that a number of decisions have been taken on the spot to clear the hurdles. [passage omitted]

When a newsman asked him to clarify the central government stand on the demand by the Gurkha National Liberation Front [GNLF], the prime minister said that all the literature and statements brought out by the GNLF are being thoroughly processed by the center.

The concerned ministry has pointed out that there is nothing against the GNLF as it is demanding Indian citizenship for Nepali citizens. How can this demand be termed as antinational, the prime minister asked. He said that if there is any document or literature or any substantial material to prove that the GNLF demands are antinational the same material may be sent to the union government to enable it to take the right action. [passage omitted]

Shankar Reiterates Claim Over PRC Border Territory

BK190857 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr P. Shiv Shankar, has reiterated that the area in Arunachal Pradesh into which there was a Chinese intrusion recently belonged to India. Mr Shiv Shankar clarified India's position on this issue at the hour-long meeting he had with his Chinese counterpart, Mr Wu Xueqian, at the UN headquarters yesterday evening.

Speaking after the meeting, the external affairs minister said they had discussed the position of preventing such incidents in future by establishing contacts at the political level instead of resorting to any unilateral action. Mr Shiv Shankar observed that such incidents could be avoided with mutual goodwill.

Mr Wu agreed that the two countries should resolve bilateral issues with mutual understanding and compromise. They should continue the dialogue on the border issue.

Mr Shiv Shankar also had a meeting with the UN secretary general, Mr De Cuellar, yesterday. The financial crisis facing the world body mainly came up for discussion. Mr De Cuellar briefed the external affairs minister on the various problems facing the United Nations and also his efforts to resolve the protracted Iran-Iraq war. The secretary general also warmly praised India's role in the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement and said it had considerably helped to maintain world peace.

Punjab Police Set Up Base 'To Apprehend' Terrorists

BK190320 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Text] In Punjab, the police and security forces have moved into the Mand area of Beas River for permanent deployment to combat terrorism effectively. The 35-km long riverine belt south of Amritsar is an ideal hideout of terrorists. Police and paramilitary forces have launched operations twice in the areas since July to apprehend terrorists. The director general of Punjab police, Mr Ribeiro, told our Chandigarh correspondent that the permanent base established by the security forces in the area is part of a major offensive launched against terrorists. Security forces will be deployed in sufficient strength to patrol the area and they will maintain wireless contact with Amritsar and police stations in the border areas, he said.

Lahore Situation 'Improved;' No Curfew in Some Areas

BK190120 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 18 Sep 86

[Text] A press note issued by the district magistrate, Lahore, tonight says except a few minor incidents the situation improved in most areas under curfew in the city today. The press note says that in Ramgarh on the Shalimar Link Road, a group of antisocial elements armed with weapons of offence attempted to put some religious buildings on fire. They were warned to desist from this activity, but they turned violent and unruly. In order to bring the situation under control, the law enforcing agencies had to use force. Two persons received injuries who later expired. [sentence as heard]

The Punjab government announced in Lahore tonight the lifting of curfew in some localities of Lahore. The localities are: David Road, Sunderdas Road, (Mel Gardens), (P.V. Pak Daman), (Ejerton Road), Railway Colony, Lahore city railway station, Empress Road, Montogerry Road, Mcleod Road, (Aboot Road), Nicholson Road, G.T.S. main terminal near railway station, Bin Mohammad Road, (Paul Road), (Chowk Dalgirah), (Gwal Mandi), Noor hospital area, B.B. Road, Nishat Road, and Dirand Road. Curfew in the remaining areas would remain operative until further orders except for the relaxation to be made for jumma [Friday] prayers between 1230 and 1430 hours.

Atomic Energy Chief Comments on Agreement With PRC

BK190246 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Text] The chairman of Pakistan's Atomic Energy Commission, Mr Munir Ahmed Khan, has said that the agreement concluded between Pakistan and China about the peaceful uses of nuclear energy would have a positive and useful impact on the relations between the two countries and further promote and strengthen bilateral ties. He told the *Associated Press of Pakistan* on his return from Beijing in Islamabad yesterday that the decision on the agreement was reached during Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo's visit to China last month.

AFP: 'Arafat Offer To Aid in Hijack Probe Turned Down

BK181644 Hong Kong AFP in English 1633 GMT 18 Sep 86

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 18 (AFP) — Pakistan has turned down an offer by Palestine Liberation Organisation chief Yasir 'Arafat to assist in an inquiry into the seizure of a Pan American jumbo jet here earlier this month, a government spokesman said Thursday.

The four Arabic-speaking gunmen tentatively identified as Palestinians were arrested after security forces stormed the plane they had seized on the tarmac 16 hours earlier.

Twenty-one persons were killed in the September 5 incident.

The spokesman said the investigating was taking time because of the alleged hijackers' "multiple layers of cover," including forged or stolen passports.

"We have not accepted Mr 'Arafat's reported offer" because "we have a very strong team interrogating the hijackers and thoroughly investigating the incident," said the spokesman.

Tehran Reports 17 Sep Cabinet Meeting Proceedings

LD181121 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Sep 86

[Text] According to our correspondent, during this morning's meeting of the Cabinet, the government's economic, cultural, and technical commissions presented their reports. Some of the proposals were ratified. The Cabinet also ratified the following during this morning's session: Exemption of the Faculty of Science and Industry from payment of 25 percent tax on every transaction; note No 46 of the budget bill for the year 20 March 1985 to 21 March 1986 in connection with setting up the technical and engineering school in Arak; the allocation of 170 million rials for development projects in Western Azarbayjan and Kordestan Provinces; the provision of the necessary credit to the grain organization for the purchase of 2.3 million tons of surplus wheat from farmers; the regulations on making use of the credit allocated to the Iranian scientific and industrial research institute; the proposal to increase the value of acceptable postal parcels from 10,000 rials to 50,000 rials; the provision of facilities in the post office for transferring money to those regions of the country where there are no banks; exemption of research programs from payment of 50 percent [not further specified]; and exemption of the Education Department from the general regulations on financial matters and state transactions.

According to this report, during today's session of the Cabinet, the Government Council approved a proposal by the Interior Ministry to appoint 'Abbas Mirza Abutalebi as governor-general of Kohkiluyeh and Bovir Ahmad Province. Tribute was paid to the former governor-general of this province, Qabanbari, for his achievements.

IRNA: UK, USSR View Iraq's Use of Chemical Weapons

LD182001 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 18 Sep 86

[Text] London, Sept 18, IRNA — British and Soviet officials held talks here Thursday on reaching an international comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.

The one-day talks focused on details of Britain's proposal to the Geneva disarmament conference, especially its most controversial point that any nation would have the right to demand inspection of suspected chemical weapons sites in another country.

Britain announced its proposal in Geneva last July, emphasising the massive Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons against the Islamic Republic and warned that "worse may yet come."

The Soviet officials have expressed interest in the proposal and according to a Foreign Office spokesman in London, the Soviet reaction has been "encouraging".

The use of chemical weapons by Iraq in the imposed war "demonstrates just how urgent this is that we should have a world-wide ban in place," the foreign [as received] spokesman added.

The Iraqi regime's chemical attacks have apparently strengthened the determination of the international community to reach final agreement on a comprehensive ban on deployment of these dangerous weapons.

But the response towards the chemical attacks against Iran has been so weak that observers believe more countries may have already acquired or are considering the acquisition of chemical weapons.

The last time the Iranian forces were bombed by chemical weapons was in its Karbala-2 operations earlier this month in Hajj 'Umran area of northern Iraq which left scores of casualties.

Ambassador to Moscow Presents Credentials

LD190821 Tehran IRNA in English 0807 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 19, IRNA — The new Iranian ambassador to Moscow, Maser Heyrani-Nobari, in a meeting with the acting Soviet foreign minister, in Moscow Thursday afternoon, presented his credentials.

Both sides discussed mutual relations and expressed satisfaction with the upward trend in bilateral relations.

They also stressed that immediate formation of the joint Iran-Soviet economic commission in Tehran and also the forthcoming visit of the Iranian Foreign Affairs Ministers 'Ali Akbar Velayati from [as received] Moscow will further expand relations between the two countries.

Majlis Speaker Addresses Garrison on War

LD182216 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 18 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 18, IRNA — Iran is more prepared for a long and extensive war now than any other time of the Iraqi imposed war, with regards to facilities, equipment, and forces, said Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, here Thursday.

Imam Khomeyni's representative at the Supreme Defence Council, addressing officials of various units of Hamzeh Seyyed-o-Shohada [name as received] Garrison, referred to the blows inflicted upon Iraqi forces by the Islamic combatants noting that the reorganisation of forces is now more difficult for Baghdad than in the past, as it takes a long time. Therefore, the Majlis speaker said, now is the best time for using all available possibilities to liquidate the enemy.

Rafsanjani also emphasized the logic of maintaining pressure on the enemy and not giving him breathing-time as one of military strategies having much wider benefits. He added that the enemy should not be given any chance for re-arming.

Tehran Reports Further Departures for Battlefronts

NC190607 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that, in conjunction with the departure of the people's volunteer forces to the battlefronts,

the Moharram convoy, comprised of trained and experienced personnel and specialists and known as the 'Ashura vanguard, left for the war zones from Mamasani yesterday. It was given a warm sendoff by local residents and was accompanied by the 4th convoy of the district's truck drivers.

According to the same report, the 8th convoy of the Karbala' Wayfarers from Ashkenan, under the name of the 'Ashura epic-makers, has also left for the battlefronts. Special 'Ashura battalions of the Abuzar regiment, consisting of skilled personnel such as first and second grade drivers, bulldozer drivers, welders, and (?technicians), and some trained and experienced brother combatants, left have departed for the warfronts from Yazd Province.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

'Main Slope' of Height 203 Captured

LD190823 Tehran IRNA in English 0811 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Text] Mehran, Ilam Prov., Sept 19, IRNA — The Muslim Forces of Iran in a five-hour hand-to-hand fierce battle with the Iraqi forces, Thursday night took control of the main slope of Height No 203, northwest of Mehran, inside Iraq, and smashed an enemy battalion. Capture of the slope will halt Iraqi offensives directed against the Muslim combatants of Iran from positions in the area.

The Iranian forces in their attack started late Thursday, smashed Iraqi positions in the area, located west of Hill 270, which was taken over by the Muslim combatants this week.

The Muslim combatants of Iran in their attack killed, wounded, or captured a number of the enemy forces, some seven of whom have been transferred behind war fronts. Large amounts of enemy munitions and armament were destroyed in the attack.

The Iranian forces while maintaining and strengthening their positions on the heights are clearing mine fields.

Attack Completes Karbala-1 Operation

LD191059 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Text] Mehran, Ilam Prov., Sept 19, IRNA — Capture of the main slope of the the Height No 203 inside Iraq by the Muslim combatants of Iran Thursday night, and stationing of the Iranian forces on Height No 270, has put the enemy in an extremely vulnerable position, said a commander of the operation here Friday.

Speaking to IRNA on the Iranian attack launched Thursday night, he said that capture of the slope has completed the Karbala-1 offensive, launched in Mehran area, central sector of the war fronts.

According to the commander the areas inside Iraq between the Doraji height [name as received] and the border heights are under the control of the Iranian forces and no height in the area is in the hand of the enemy.

The Iraqi forces have retreated to Zurbatiyah plains and are under fire of the Iranian forces. The Muslim combatants of Iran in their Thursday night operation have advanced some 500 meters, he added.

Capturing of Further Heights Detailed

LD191153 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Excerpt] According to an IRNA report the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in operations code-named "Ya Hoseyn Ibn 'Ali - may peace be upon him!" launched an assault on the positions of the Saddamist forces northwest of Mehran and north of the cities of Zurbatiyah and Badrah. After a heavey battle lasting 4 hours, they succeeded in liberating a number of important strategic heights, including Heights Nos 285, 280, and 200. During these operations the 2d Battalion of the 118th Brigade of the 35th Infantry Mountain Division of the 2d Iraqi Army Corps was utterly destroyed and some 35 duped Saddamists were captured by the Islamic forces.

According to this report following this defeat the enemy moved to southwest of the cities of Badrah and Zurbatiyah. The Islamic forces by their deployment on the heights northwest of Mehran are able to keep an eye on all enemy movements.

In an interview with IRNA the commanders of the operational sector emphasized that liberating the heights northwest of Mehran has caused the enemy to flee toward south of the cities of Badrah and Zurbatiyah in order to escape the direct fire of the Islamic forces, but in view of the Islamic forces' total domination of these two cities the Army units of the Iraqi regime will remain extremely vulnerable. [passage omitted]

Army Official on Height 270 Liberation

LD181608 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 18 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 18, IRNA — The liberation of strategic Height Number 270 in Mehran region by Iranian forces on Tuesday has made the town of Mehran virtually safe from any probable Iraqi attacks in future, the head of the Army Politico-Ideological Department said here Thursday. Hojjat ol-Eslam Safa'i, the head of the Army Politico-Ideological Department added that Iraqi cities of Badrah and Zurbatiyah are now within range of Iranian artillery fire.

The Iranian Army in its latest operation proved again that as in the beginning of the Iraqi-imposed war it has stood firmly ever [as received] and is determined to restore the denied rights of the Iranian nation.

Referring to the participation of the different units of the Armed Forces during the war week ceremonies (September 22-28), he said that 24 select military units will hold a march and the Air Force will conduct a maneuver here on September 22.

The Army is also to conduct a mock maneuver of the operations which led to the February 11 liberation of the Iraqi oil port city of Al-Faw, at Eram Park here during the war week, Safa'i said.

Communique No 2598

LD181656 Tehran IRNA in English 1631 GMT 18 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 18, IRNA — Two cargo ships suspected of carrying goods to Iraq were intercepted and escorted to southern Iranian ports for thorough inspection by the Navy at 18:50 hours GMT Wednesday and at 02:10 hours GMT Thursday, said a military communique Thursday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,598 said that Iran's Navy also released on Wednesday another cargo ship, intercepted and escorted to a southern Iranian port on September 13, after being satisfied that it was not carrying any goods to Iraq.

Another 14 foreign cargo ships and oil tankers sailing in the Strait of Hormuz were inspected and later released by the Iranian Naval units on Wednesday.

The communique added that Iraqi forces suffered substantial casualties and at least 22 enemy gun emplacements and observation posts, several munitions dumps, two tanks, three artillery pieces, and four military vehicles were destroyed in fire exchanges throughout the fronts Wednesday.

In the southern fronts, Iranian forces maintained their fire superiority and shelled Iraqi positions on Wednesday killing or wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers and destroying 12 enemy gun emplacements and also two munitions dumps.

Several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 10 enemy gun emplacements and observation posts together with three artillery pieces were destroyed in the western fronts Wednesday when they were hit by Iranian artillery fire.

In Panjwin, northwestern fronts, several Iraqi light and heavy vehicles and a number of munitions depots were destroyed by artillery fire, and smoke rising from the munitions dumps filled the region for hours after they had been exploded by Iranian artillery fire. Forty five Iraqi soldiers were reported to have been wounded in Marivan operational theater, the communique said.

Two Iraqi military bases in Hajj 'Umran, northwestern fronts, were badly damaged by Iranian artillery fire, and Iraqi positions in Piranshah, Sar Dasht and Marivan operational theaters also came under Iranian heavy artillery fire.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces, shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern fronts Wednesday killing or wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers and destroying several enemy gun emplacements, a number of light and heavy weapons, and four military vehicles.

Some convoys of Iraqi patrols attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Sumar, western fronts, and Sar Dasht, northwestern fronts, Wednesday incurred heavy casualties and were forced to flee under Iranian artillery fire.

Iranian artillery pounded Iraqi units in Hosayniyeh and Nahre-Anbar [spelling as received] as well as enemy armoured units in Yabis and Ein-Khoush [spelling as received] in the southern fronts, Wednesday destroying at least two Iraqi tanks.

Reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters were checked in Varmehraz and Zurbatiyah operational theaters by Iranian anti-aircraft fire on Wednesday, the communique said.

Khomeyni Portraits Hung After Attacks in S. Lebanon

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[Text] Beirut, Sept 18, IRNA — Lebanese Muslim revolutionaries in two attacks on joint positions of Zionist occupiers and Antoine Lahad's merceneries in south Lebanon Thursday captured two posts on top of which they set up portraits of Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Revolution, and also flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Some forty Zionist soldiers and mercenaries of Antoine Lahad were either killed or captured and good deal of artillery and mortar ammunition seized during the attacks.

Reports from south Lebanon said that fighting in the liberated areas was continuing.